

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 191154  
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 191154

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, EG, OVIP, PSDC

SUBJECT: BEGIN MESSAGE TO SECRETARY

1. IN LETTER OF JULY 24, ISRAELI EMBASSY PASSED ON FOLLOW-  
ING MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO SECRETARY:
2. (BEGIN TEXT) "DEAR MR. SECRETARY,
3. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR URGENT MESSAGE OF JULY 20 WHICH  
YOU KINDLY TRANSMITTED TO ME FROM YOUR AIRCRAFT EN-ROUTE  
HOME.
4. I AM GRATIFIED, INDEED, THAT OUR FOREIGN MINISTER WAS  
ABLE TO MEET, UNDER YOUR SPONSORSHIP, WITH THE FOREIGN MIN-  
ISTER OF EGYPT AT THE LEEDS CASTLE FOR THE TWO-DAY JOINT  
CONFERENCE.

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5. MY COLLEAGUE, MR.DAYAN, REPORTED TO ME IN DETAIL ABOUT  
THE PROCEEDINGS. WHILE THE GAP BETWEEN THE PARTIES REMAINS  
WIDE, THE VERY FACT THAT SUCH A MEETING WAS HELD AND THAT,  
AT YOUR INITIATIVE, A FURTHER CONFERENCE IS CONTEMPLATED,  
HAS POSITIVE MEANING AND MAY ALSO, AS WE ALL HOPE, PRODUCE  
CONCRETE RESULTS.

6. MEANWHILE, DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN CONVEYED TO ME THE MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SADAT CONCERNING THE SO-CALLED GESTURE. I HAVE ANSWERED MR. SADAT IN A SPECIAL DISPATCH, A COPY OF WHICH I ENCLOSE FOR YOUR INFORMATION. MAY I ASK YOU TO KINDLY SHARE WITH THE PRESIDENT THE CONTENTS OF MY REPLY.

7. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON IN OUR COUNTRY AND MY WIFE AND I WILL BE MOST HAPPY TO BE HOST TO YOU AND YOUR GRACIOUS LADY TO WHOM WE SEND OUR WARMEST REGARDS.

8. WITH VERY BEST PERSONAL WISHES,

9. SINCERELY, MENACHIM BEGIN" (END TEXT)

10. (BEGIN TEXT OF ATTACHED LETTER FROM BEGIN TO SADAT.,

11. JULY 23, 1978

12. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

13. MY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL WEIZMAN DELIVERED TO ME YOUR MESSAGE FROM SALZBURG.

14. YOUR SUGGESTION TO ME IS THAT I SHOULD MAKE, ON BEHALF  
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OF ISRAEL, A UNILATERAL ACT OF TRANSFERRING EL-ARISH AND THE AREA KNOWN AS THE MOSES-MOUNTAIN TO EGYPTIAN JURISDICTION.

15. YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT NO UNILATERAL STEP IS FEASIBLE BY ANY COUNTRY, WHEREAS NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT AN ACCORD BASED ON RECIPROCITY IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE.

16. I SUGGEST THAT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF THOSE NEGOTIATIONS, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR COUNTRIES MEET. THEY MAY CON- VENE IN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM, OR, IF YOU PREFER, IN ALEXANDRIA AND HAIFA, OR ANY OTHER PLACE IN OUR COUNTRIES OR ABROAD.

17. WITH BEST PERSONAL REGARDS, MENACHEM BEGIN." (END TEXT OF ATTACHED LETTER.)

18. SECRETARY'S REPLY WILL BE COMING TO YOU BY SEPTTEL. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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